

Bad River Tribe

Cynthia Mary “Dolly” Rose and Carl Rose

Dolly was born on August 23, 1910 and Carl on April 30, 1911. Dolly grew up in Odanah on the Bad River Reservation. She attended high school in Ashland. To get there, her father took her in a canoe across the Bad River to the train depot. Dolly took the train to Ashland and then walked a mile to the school. She went on to attend business school at the Haskell Institute in Kansas and then worked in the Records Department of a hospital in Muskogee. Carl grew up in Oklahoma. The couple met through a mutual friend. They moved to Odanah when their first baby was born 62 years ago.

Dolly has worked on many projects for her Native American community. She and Carl will celebrate 66 years of marriage in the Fall of 2000.

Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe

Ernest and Marcella Guibord

As the oldest member of the tribe, Ernest is 95 years old. He spent many years working for the railroads as a mechanic. He also owned a farm south of Reserve. His nickname “Pea Soup” is after his favorite food. Ernest’s wife Marcella is 90 and is one of the liveliest elders. She supervises the Foster Grandparents and other senior programs for the tribe. Ernest and Marcella serve as historians for the tribe and as an example of a long and happy marriage. Ernest was an “old-time” fiddler and Marcella says, “Pea Soup fiddled and I danced.”

Menominee Tribe

Louis Vigue

Louis was born on the Menominee reservation on July 11, 1907. He was sent to the government boarding school for Native American children. He then did farm chores and worked at skidding logs. Louis played baseball on the Kachina and the Shawano Lakers teams.

When he was 27, Louis married Evelyn Phillippi. Evelyn died after delivering their fourth child. Louis went to Chicago where he worked in a factory, making torpedo-firing devices. He was the “set-up” man, making sure the equipment worked right. He married again and retired to Wisconsin, where he built the house he still lives in. Injured when he was 90, he doesn’t hunt and fish anymore, but he still drives his truck and tractor. He also enjoys doing beadwork.

St. Croix Tribe

Lafayette Connor

I was born on March 29, 1900 at Colfax on my grandfather's farm. My father moved us from one logging camp to another until 1905, when we moved back to our farm on the Yellow River near Connors Bridge. I attended the Orange School until I was 14 and then the Lake Vermillion Indian School. I boarded there for one year. That winter was long and lonesome.

I spent the next years working on the farm and for the railroads as a gandy dancer, until someone offered me an apprenticeship as a barber. I jumped at the chance to learn this trade. After six months, I got one job after another as a barber until I married and opened my own business in Chicago. I retired in 1951 and moved back to Webster, my old hometown.